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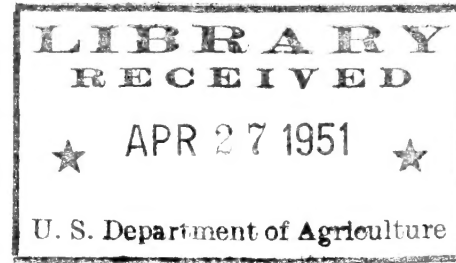
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April 1951

RUSSWARD
Saintpaulia Growers

JONESBORO, ARK.



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News Letter

April, 1951

Dear Friends:

The weather guys say we only have winters like this every ten years or so. Reassuring, at least. We told some of you folks up in Minnesota and Wisconsin, joking, that it might be Mother's Day before it warmed up enough to send you your plants. May not be such a big joke after all. Shall we dance?



Q. I see violet plants with real dark thick leaves, but mine are light in color. Why? The large ones I've had for two years, and they have never bloomed. Mrs. O.L.K., Missouri.

A. Sounds like a case of malnutrition and/or insufficient light. Buy a commercial fertilizer at the dime store, follow the instructions on the package for supplementary feedings for your plants. Try to find a brighter location for them in your home.

Q. I have a plant in a four-inch pot with four crowns. It was suggested that I prune it, but I don't know how. Or should I repot it into a larger pot and let all of the plant continue growing?

A. Prune it? Or divide it? If you have the space to accommodate, or the need for, four plants, by all means divide it. If not, shift it on. Divide as follows: With the blade of a thin knife, cut down through the soil and roots where the crowns are joined together, **WITH THE PLANT STILL IN THE POT.** Allow the plant to remain thus for about two weeks, giving the cuts sufficient time to heal over. Then prepare your soil, collect your containers, and slip out the crowns. Crumble off as much of the old soil as possible without damaging the roots, and pot up in the new containers. If there are small crowns which have no root system of their own, prop them up on a saucer full of sterile sand or vermiculite. In a month or so they will have sprouted their own roots and will be ready for shift to soil.

Q. Three of my smaller plants were chilled this winter and lost their larger leaves. Will they revive and be satisfactory or not?

A. Sure they will, given time.

Q. My leaves will root in water, but they don't grow when put into soil. Why? Miss M.A.S., Michigan.

A. A common propagation error is to leave the cuttings in the water too long. If you leave your cutting in a rooting medium, regardless of what it is, until the young plants begin to form, there will be some trouble when the shift to soil is made. Much better practice to induce your roots to about an inch in length, then shift. Also remember to use at least one-third sand in the soil mixture for these young plants. Violets of any age don't do well in a soil which packs down easily.

Q. I have a violet with several seed pods. If these are allowed to ripen will it injure the plant? I had one plant go "sick" after leaving a seed pod on it. Mrs. A.K., Nebraska.

A. Oh, no. If the plant were too weak to grow seed, the seed wouldn't ripen in the first place. A plant might sicken and die from any number of causes, but not from growing seed.

Q. What causes the new center leaves to become light in color? Mrs. H.L., Illinois.

A. New center foliage is frequently lighter than the other foliage. This is often particularly noticeable in the spring, when the plants take on a new surge of growth. If the "lighter color" is accompanied by a stiffening or coarsening of the center leaves, it is possible that you have an infestation of cyclamen mite.

Q. What are those little gnat-like insects that fly around the violets? Are they harmful? They multiply like nobody's business. Will P-40 destroy them? Mrs. L.S., Florida.

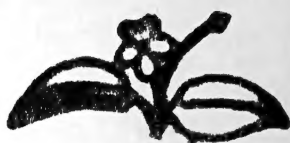
A. These little pests are called black flies, and they are quite harmless. They have a bad name, however, because when a plant begins to rot, they thrive in the decaying matter beneath the soil level. This leads many folks to believe that the flies caused the rot when the truth is just the reverse. Am not acquainted with P-40, but many collectors have sprayed DDT preparations immediately beneath the plants with some success. We recommend watering the plants with a nicotine sulphate solution, leaving out the soap. Just mix the solution as you would for spraying, and water from the top with it. Keep it up for about two weeks.

Q. You have taken me off your mailing list. Ain't we friends anymore? Mrs. T.D., Virginia.

A. Of course, we're friends, honey. It's just that when we don't hear from you, month after month, (cough\$!) we begin to wonder if you've moved or something.

R U S S W A R D
Saintpaulia Growers

JONESBORO, ARKANSAS



Sustaining Member African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Ship To _____ Date _____

Street or R.F.D. _____

Town and State _____

Amount Enclosed \$_____

If this order is being sent as a gift, please write your own name and address below since we would like to notify you of shipment.

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Q. Should I destroy my violets when they get a hard center? Mrs. F.V., North Carolina.

A. It would be simpler, to tell you the truth. They have cyclamen mite and it's awfully hard to get rid of.

Q. Somebody said you don't ship plants beyond 800 miles. Is that right? Mrs. N.E.P., Georgia.

A. Sure is. Pretty expensive to mail compost all the way out to California and that's about all the violets are good for by the time they get there. Oh, a few plants get through. But not many.

See you next month,

"Russ"

PRICE LIST

Shipping Information—Plants shipped in 2-inch pots in which they are grown. List price includes packing and mailing costs. All plants sent Special Handling. We guarantee safe arrival of plants. Since we assume the responsibility for safe arrival, we reserve the right to ship at our own discretion during the winter months and early spring. To avoid disappointment, and to take advantage of frequent price reductions, order from the most recent Price List.

Yellow African Violet—Sorry we do not have one or know of one.

Climbing African Violet—We have a small stock of *S. grotei* under propagation at present. Will be many months before we can offer it for sale.

Blue Butterfly—Old favorite. Medium to dark foliage. Flat, heart-shaped leaves. Medium light blue flowers in profusion \$1.50

Blue Eyed Beauty—Large white blossom with blue marking on the flower. Husky medium-green foliage. Remarkable for its vitality and profuse bloom. Three-inch plants \$3.00

Blue Girl—Dark blue flower. Scalloped foliage \$1.25

Blue Pet—An awfully sweet little miniature. Girl foliage, round flat leaves with white spot at base. Dark blue flower \$1.25

Dark Red Head—This offered by popular demand. Only have a few. Same as Red Head foliage but bloom dark burgundy color \$2.25

Double Neptune—Loveliest of the doubles to date. Shows all Neptune characteristics with double flower of excellent color \$2.00

Double Orchid—Pretty three-inch plants of this variety. Double red-lavender flowers. Regular Blue-Boy type foliage \$1.75

Diplotricha—Species. Commonly known as Kewensis. Pale green delicate foliage. Very small dainty blue flowers \$1.25

Lady Geneva—Dark blue with dainty white border around the edge of the flower \$2.25

Moire—Variegation of rich purple blossom resembles moire taffeta. Medium green foliage ... \$1.75

Old Lace—Deeply scalloped leaves. Definitely a miniature. Dark blue flowers carried high and profusely \$1.75

Orchid Wonder—One of the finer pale varieties. Shades to dark in center of flower \$2.25

Periwinkle—Lovely paler blue. Outer surface of petals much lighter than inner, giving effect of tiny white border around flower \$1.75

Pink Girl—Scalloped, medium green foliage with pink blossom \$1.50

Red Girl—Rich red blossom with traditional girl foliage \$1.25

Red King—Finest red to date. Heavy dark green foliage, intense burgundy flowers, unusually large \$1.75

Red-Lavender Fringette—At least we can offer one in this much-coveted series. Edges of both foliage and blossom deliciously frilled \$2.50

Rosie O'Grady—One of the finer of the modern pinks. Large pink flower overlaid with rose star \$2.00

Ruffles—Dark, dark foliage. Very pointed, dentate leaves with crimson reverse. Pale blue flowers \$1.50

Sailor Girl—Pale blue version of the popular Girl strain. Same scalloped foliage \$1.50

Snow Prince—Brand new. Pure white with barely perceptible lavender tinge. Foliage lot like Purple Prince. Fine, slick, heartshaped leaves \$3.00

Violet Beauty—Classy. Orchid shade with bluish cast. Big? Oh, gosh \$2.25

White Girl Hybrid—Predominately white flower with blue or lavender marking—some pure white. Beautiful girl foliage \$2.00

